



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

10/06/2003

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/740,064	12/20/2000	Hiroshi Yoshida	KAW-238-USAP	1137
7590	10/06/2003		EXAMINER	
Snider & Associates Ronald R. Snider P.O. Box 27613 Washington, DC 20038-7613			HOTALING, JOHN M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3713	

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2003

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/740,064	YOSHIDA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	John M Hotaling II	3713	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 May 2001.

2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \*    c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>6</u> .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McGlone et al US Patent 6,394,900 in view of Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary Third Edition page 451 definition for structured programming. McGlone discloses all of the instant application with the exception of specifically stating the use of a hierarchical processing structure and mid level instructions. Instead McGlone discloses all of the inputs and outputs of a gaming machine may be controlled by a master gaming controller which sends out high level instructions to a peripheral controller which can use the high level instructions to send low level instruction precisely controlling the operation of its drive mechanism or pass the high level instructions to a second slot reel peripheral. McGlone provides a method for controlling operation of a slot reel peripheral containing a single slot reel on a gaming machine. The method may include the steps of (1) receiving a high level instruction for controlling the slot reel peripheral from a first master gaming controller via a standard peripheral connection to a peripheral controller associated with the slot reel peripheral where the high level instruction does not precisely specify how the slot reel peripheral must perform an operation associated with the high level instruction, (2) converting the high level instruction to one or more low

level operating instructions, at the peripheral controller, for controlling the operation of one or more peripheral devices provided with the slot reel peripheral and (3) controlling operation of the one or more peripheral devices with the low level operating instructions. In the a preferred embodiment, the method may also include the steps of (a) storing state history information in the slot reel peripheral specifying a recent operating state of the slot reel peripheral and (b) transmitting the stored state history information to the first master gaming controller. In another embodiment the slot reel peripheral may receive a high level instruction for controlling the slot reel peripheral from a second slot reel peripheral via a standard peripheral connection or from a second master gaming controller different from the first master gaming controller. The slot reel peripheral may contain a number of peripheral devices including an effects light 404, a back light 406, a bar code detector 408, position sensors 410, tampering sensors 412, an electro-luminescence device 414, a sound device 416, a stepper motor 418, and a slot reel 420. McGlone teaches the transformation of a high level signal by an intermediate device into a low level signal for use by a low level device. The Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary (MPCD) Third Edition page 451 definition for structured programming states that; Programming that produces programs with clean flow, clear design, and a degree of modularity or hierarchical structure. One of ordinary skill in the art would understand that the processing of high level signals into low level signals is structured or "Hierarchical" programming as taught above. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention use hierarchical processing as disclosed in McGlone and specifically taught in the MPCD.

***Citation of Pertinent Prior Art***

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

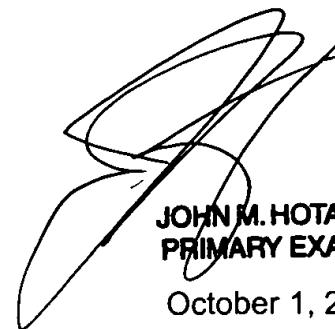
Tsukahara '994, Johnson et al '185, Gauselmann '595, Weiss et al '769, Walker '492 all disclose processing schemes for a game machine.

***Conclusion***

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John M Hotaling II whose telephone number is 703 305 0780. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 7:30-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Teresa Walberg can be reached on (703) 308-1327. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-7777.



JOHN M. HOTALING, II  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
October 1, 2003